

SPEECH BY TERRY SANFORD  
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I come to you as one who grew up in eastern North Carolina amidst all of the pressure and difficulties of sharp racial differences, and while I do not presume to know the problem nor the answers, I have been exposed first hand as you have here in Hertford County. I am glad that I was asked to come to discuss with you the Governor's plan which has been devised in response to the Supreme Court school-segregation decision, and is now being passed on to you by the General Assembly for your acceptance or rejection at the special election on September 8th.

Everyone goes into a controversial subject with certain basic starting points in his attitude and thinking. I have two that you're entitled to know about right at the start:

First, let me say that by nature I cannot and will not approach this question of the Supreme Court's decision by screaming, crying, or in sullen despair. Neither do I keep company with the advocates of force, on either side, who believe that by intimidation and threats any satisfactory purpose can be accomplished.

The Supreme Court may be just as wrong as Corrigan, but our response must be calm, quiet, and deliberate reason. You do not curse away the darkness of the night; you illuminate your area by holding up a light. The people of North Carolina have reasoned their way out of many difficult situations, and we will reason our way out of this one.

This is terribly important, the attitude we take into the matter-- and its my conviction that our attitude must be one of basic good-will, not hazy and half-despairing, but imaginative, purposeful and optimistic.